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THE ANARCHIST MOVEMENT IN BOTH HEMISPHERES.

THE following brief paper was written by Mr. TALLACK, the Secretary of the HOWARD ASSOCIATION, London, in response to a request from the Committee of the United States PRISON CHAPLAINS' DEPARTMENT of the AMERICAN PRISON CONGRESS held in KANSAS, 1901.

GENTLEMEN,

Your Committee, through our mutual friend, the Rev. W. J. BATT, have done me the honour to invite me to send a paper for your next annual meeting. I should not have presumed, otherwise, to take such a step. But being thus invited, I venture to offer a few thoughts arising out of that universal horror which the people of this country, and of the world at large, have felt, on hearing of the assassination of the excellent PRESIDENT of your great country, by an Anarchist.

But this act is only a single manifestation of a terribly morbid fungoid growth, from the moral and social point of view, which is widely but quietly diffusing itself, in both Hemispheres, over multitudes of minds deprived of the salutary and essential sunshine of religious influences.

From your own observations of criminals in prisons, you are painfully aware of the close connection between ruined lives and the neglect of domestic devotion and of Scriptural training in early years. There is grave reason to fear that this neglect has, during the last half-century, increasingly pervaded all classes of society throughout the civilised world, often manifesting itself in an

abandonment of prayer and Bible-reading in the home, in public dissipation on the Sabbath, and in an habitual forgetfulness of GOD and of the solemn responsibilities connected with ETERNITY and its rewards and punishments. As those in the higher and middle ranks of society have, not unfrequently, set this bad example, it has increasingly been imitated by the less educated and poorer classes, with serious disadvantages to communities.

But notwithstanding this moral lapse, in various directions, there is great encouragement to be derived from observing the positive and successful results of the labours of the CHURCHES and of individuals, *in so far* as they have been put forth. For example, in your own enlightened land, the remaining influences of the practical piety of the PILGRIM FATHERS and their successors, together with the persevering and prayerful efforts of many thousands of MINISTERS, EVANGELISTS, SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS, and "CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOURERS," have at least produced this qualifying effect, that the great mass of the people of the UNITED STATES are an orderly and moral population, eminently loyal to their Federal and State Governments.

The same good characteristics are to be observed in SWEDEN, in much of GERMANY, and in GREAT BRITAIN with her COLONIES—nations where the preaching of the GOSPEL is general and the BIBLE still taught extensively in schools, and where, also, order and loyalty are the rule, and disloyalty and violence the exception. The reason is to be found in the still considerable degree in which, at any rate by general profession, and often by actual possession, religion is honoured.

But it is specially to be noticed that ANARCHISTS and extreme SOCIALISTS are mostly, as a class, avowed AGNOSTICS, or ATHEISTS. They ignore GOD, the BIBLE, and ETERNAL REALITIES. And they are, in great degree, the special product of those countries where the Bible is little used in the HOME, or in the SCHOOL; as, for example, too generally in ITALY.

Hence you, Gentlemen, and all other Ministers of Religion, and

other persons of influence, in both Hemispheres, may render excellent service to GOD and HUMANITY by reiterating, as occasion may offer, the preventive importance of HOME DEVOTION, BIBLICAL EDUCATION, and the extension of SUNDAY SCHOOLS both for juveniles and adults.

ANARCHISTS are largely a product, or a result, of the neglect of duty and the bad examples amongst other classes of the community. And the blame of Anarchist outrages should be fairly shared and apportioned amongst the latter. If, amongst any people, there has long been encouraged a considerable degree of dishonour to GOD and of disregard to the sacredness of human life, as manifested under the forms of "JINGOISM," excessive MILITARISM, MOB VIOLENCE, or LYNCH LAW BARBARITIES—then these evils, if popularly encouraged or endorsed, are in themselves calculated to foster the spirit of violence in such a mode as Anarchism. And until a more general, practical regard is paid to these *causes*, by the more influential sections of Society in all nations, Anarchist outrages are likely still to occur, from time to time.

Spasmodic demands for vengeance upon Anarchists are sure to be ineffectual, unless these roots and sources of violence are grappled with. The right restraint of crime is everywhere necessary; but all experience shows that efforts mainly directed to mere deterrence are failures. *Already*, both in Europe and America, Capital Punishment has repeatedly been applied to Anarchist assassins. But still the supply continues, and appears to increase—if not in consequence of, at least subsequently to, such efforts for repression.

As a direct application, even permanent confinement, as LUNATICS, is likely to be more efficacious with Anarchists than such immediately severer punishments as minister to their special vanity and love of notoriety. The assassin of PRESIDENT MCKINLEY was at once anxious to know, "What do people say about me?" and longed for the newspapers. A similar mad folly was wisely dealt with by the shrewd EMPRESS CATHARINE OF RUSSIA, when Revolutionists came from Paris to seek to upset her throne. She

was counselled to execute them at once. But she declined thus to make martyrs of them. She had them arrested, shaved their heads and dosed them with strong medicine. They were then turned out in the streets of St. Petersburg as bald and scraggy lunatics; and then, overwhelmed with popular scorn, they were glad to skulk out of the country. No doubt, nowadays also, shaved heads and lunatic wards in perpetuity would far more effectually discourage notoriety-seeking Anarchists than more violent measures; at least as far as any modes of mere repression may avail.

But in regard to this evil, as with all others, "prevention is better than cure." And it is wiser to deal mainly with the primary causes and chief sources. And these are sufficiently indicated by the undeniable fact that well-trained and religious people do not furnish recruits to the Anarchists, but are the chief security of nations.

If, both in AMERICA and EUROPE, the MINISTERS of RELIGION and SOCIAL REFORMERS generally, will urge everywhere increased attention to the importance of more HOME DEVOTION and BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION, they will be doing a truly patriotic service, and one calculated to check violent and other crimes at their source, and this in a manner and degree more effectually than by any other means.

The beautiful hymn-line, quoted by your dying PRESIDENT—"Nearer, my God, to Thee"—is suggestive, not only of the necessity, both in life and death, of the paternal grace of the Highest, for each of His children, individually, but also of its indispensability for the security and best interests of communities and nations.

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